



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

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FSA Expands Emergency Haying and Grazing to Additional CRP Practices - Contact FSA Office for Guidance -

Indianapolis, August 2 – Indiana Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Julia A. Wickard today announced that emergency haying and grazing provisions have been expanded to include additional practices under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for all Indiana counties for 2012.

The additional practices indicated with asterisks in the table below are being released with the concurrence of Indiana wildlife partners in response to the critical need for livestock forage due to the ongoing drought. “Secretary Vilsack announced the availability of these practices on Wednesday afternoon and conservation and agricultural organizations acted swiftly to enact the special provisions for our state,” said Wickard.

Emergency Haying and Grazing CRP Practices/Acres		
Practice	Description	Approximate Indiana Acres
CP1	Permanent Introduced Grasses and Legumes	30,261
CP2	Permanent Native Grasses	26,091
CP4B	Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors	383
CP4D	Permanent Wildlife Habitat	11,845
*CP8A	Grass Waterways	19,990
CP10	Vegetative Cover (Grass Already Established)	49,735
CP18 C	Permanent Salt Tolerant Vegetative Cover	0.5
*CP23	Floodplain Wetlands	1,589
*CP23A	Non-Floodplain Wetlands	1,306
*CP25	Rare and Declining Habitat	2,173
*CP27	Farmable Wetland Program - Wetland	356
*CP28	Farmable Wetland Program - Buffer	663
CP 38	SAFE CP25 Rare and Declining Habitat	110.7
Total Indiana Acres		144,503.2

“This was a decision that was not taken lightly. An extensive environmental assessment was conducted to determine the impact these haying or grazing practices would have on wildlife,” stated Wickard. The complete Programmatic Environmental Assessment can be found online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ecrc&topic=nep-cd>.



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All haying under emergency provisions must be completed by August 31st; while grazing must end September 30th. Authorized producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage. Hay that is baled may be given away or sold.

Producers must also obtain a modified conservation plan and an environmental review for these expanded practices must be completed by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). There will be a 10 percent annual payment reduction for CRP acres used for grazing under these emergency provisions, which was reduced from 25 percent recently by Secretary Vilsack. The selling of hay and the payment reduction is only for 2012 due to the drought conditions.

“USDA is doing all we can to provide relief to Indiana producers during this historic drought. The release of the additional 26,077 acres may ease some immediate forage need for livestock producers,” said Wickard. Wickard reminds producers that they should check with their local FSA office for clear guidance on what CRP practices are eligible.

Additional information is available at www.fsa.usda.gov or you can visit the Indiana FSA Drought page at www.fsa.usda.gov/in for more Indiana drought-related information.

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